

THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST.

DEVOTED TO THE ENLARGEMENT AND PERFECTION OF HOME.

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WHAT THE PAPER IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT.

THE sub-heading under the title tells in as few words as possible what the AMERICAN SOCIALIST is; but to see how the object proposed in that sub-heading permeates vast varieties of discussion and information on Communism, Coöperation and all connected themes, political and religious, the paper itself must be read. To show what the AMERICAN SOCIALIST is not, we quote a passage from a letter received from a Shaker of very high standing in his order—in fact, a member of the Ministry. After reading the paper a year, he says: "I see that some are misled, as I was a year ago, in supposing the AMERICAN SOCIALIST to be the organ of the Oneida Community. It seems to me now to be no more the organ of that body than though the O. C. had no existence. I have perused it with some care the past year, and find it, among all the Socialistic organs, without a peer."

A COMMUNISTIC PLAN OF SUBSCRIPTION.

The hard times crowd us all. Now and then an able-bodied man sends us a dollar and apologizes for not sending two by saying that he has been laying by that dollar, a few pennies at a time, for several weeks. On the other hand, our annual receipts do not thus far half pay for the bare cost of paper and printing, to say nothing of editorial labor. At the same time many of our subscribers are wealthy and sometimes send us more than the price of the paper. These circumstances have suggested the following plan for equalizing burdens all round: Let every person who can spare a dollar besides his regular subscription send it to us with the name of some poor person to whom he would have the SOCIALIST sent, and we will contribute the other dollar in every case and send a full volume. That is, we will contribute as much, in this way, as all others will send us. If the sender does not know a suitable poor person who would like to receive the paper, we will, when requested, suggest one of the many who apply to us and state his lack of means. This plan is exactly suited to the genius of Communism, which teaches those who have an abundance to help those who lack.

PUBLISHERS' CAVEAT.

THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST will in the future, as in the past, publish all well-written accounts of new Communistic and Coöperative Societies which may be offered in good faith; but it should be clearly understood that its conductors disclaim all responsibility for the character or success of such Societies. They consider that they perform their duty if they exclude schemes which are manifestly hair-brained or fraudulent and continue to set forth, as opportunity offers, the principles which seem to them to lie at the foundation of successful Socialism.

A similar disclaimer of responsibility for advertisements is also hereby notified to all readers. We shall print only such as seem to us honest; and all we mean by that act is that it will be safe to read them; but when you come to business with the advertisers, you must act on your own responsibility.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Communications for the AMERICAN SOCIALIST are invited from all friends of its purposes. Its editors, however, must be the judges of the fitness of articles sent; and they can not undertake to return manuscripts that do not suit them, unless the writers expressly request it and inclose postage money when the manuscripts are sent.

All correspondence should be addressed to

"The American Socialist, Oneida, N. Y."

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SOCIALISTIC NOTES.

Lake Constance Community is a new organization of sixteen members, located at Buffalo, Wright County, Minn.

The Congressional Committee on the Cause and Cure of the Depression in Business and Labor is holding sessions in Chicago.

One hundred Nihilists have been arrested on the estate of Grand-Duke Constantine, brother of the Czar, at Pavlosk, near Petersburg.

A certificate of incorporation was granted at the late special term of the Bollinger County Court of Missouri to the Friendship Community.

The Lebanon Society of Shakers has a member, Dolly Saxton, who has completed her 104th year, and is described as "happy and as lively as a cricket."

The British farmers are forming "Farmers' Alliances" in all parts of the kingdom to protect their interests and urge practical reforms in land-tenure, etc.

J. Murray Case, of Columbus, Ohio, wants ninety-nine families to join with his in establishing a Colony in one of the Western States or Territories, for Coöperative farming and manufacturing.

The London Times is compelled to say, in summing up the quarterly returns of the Board of Trade, "There is yet nothing in our foreign trade to indicate a revival of business activity and confidence."

The New York Tribune thinks "something must be wrong when one hundred and ten infants die within forty-eight hours," as happened recently in New York City, during a hot term; but suppose, as Dr. Foote's Monthly suggests, that "this large death-rate among infants is in no small part due to the fact that there are poor families in which children are born so often that a death is felt to be a relief from an unwelcome burden!"

During the year 1877 the landlords of Great Britain received rental as follows:

In England.....	\$335,000,000
In Ireland.....	68,000,000
In Scotland.....	70,000,000
	\$473,000,000

This sum was paid by the tenant-farmers in addition to all taxes general and local. Is it surprising that in view of such facts and of American competition a tremendous wail should be sent up by the farmers of Great Britain?

A recent telegram from London, England, says: "Shorter time and no further reduction of wages are suggested as a remedy for the depression in the Oldham cotton trade. Some leading facts in connection with this trade show that in limited companies alone £2,000,000 has been lying unproductive for three years: £120,000 debt has accrued; twenty per cent. reduction has been made in operatives' wages; mills are running on short time, or are closed; and there have been numerous failures and a decrease of fifty per cent. in the value of house property."

From a speech of John Bright in the English House of Commons: "You have begun this agitation, and it shall not end till a full inquiry has been made—not the partial inquiry you propose, but full inquiry into everything that affects land and the landed interests. And before you have got through with it the country will find that it is the ownership of land in this country which lies at the root of the evil. Two-thirds of the soil of England and Wales are owned by 10,200 persons; two-thirds of Scotland are owned by 330 persons; two-thirds of Ireland are owned by 1,942 persons. I tell the honorable gentleman opposite that he has opened the door and it cannot now be closed. The commission will have to inquire whence comes this gigantic monopoly; how comes it that the great bulk of the population are thus divorced from the soil of their native land. The true remedy is to abolish all the ancient, stupid and mischievous legislation by which you are embarrassed in every step you take in dealing with the land."

The correspondent of the New York Tribune, G. W. Smalley, thus writes of George J. Holyoake, the English Coöperator, who is coming to the United States the present month: "Mr. Holyoake is one of the pioneers in the Coöperative movement in England, and more recently its historian. I don't speak of that Coöperation that has lately roused the wrath of the British shopkeeper, but of the earlier and more genuine form of Coöperation, which dates from Rochdale. Mr. Holyoake is a man of the people, who

has spent his life in work for the people—work of many kinds, useful, intelligent, but for the most part unrewarded, and to some extent unrecognized. If you care to know something about the present social and industrial condition of what are called the masses, Mr. Holyoake can tell you. On some topics he is perhaps better informed than any living Englishman, and whatever he tells you may be taken as the statement of a man who is as sincere and accurate as he is disinterested. Mr. Holyoake has lately been testifying before the Parliamentary Committee now inquiring, at the British shopkeeper's request, into Coöperation. The shopkeeper has made a point of complaining of the management of stores by civil servants of the Crown. Mr. Holyoake was asked by the chairman whether he objected to civil servants taking part in the direction of these stores. He replied that he was glad to hear they were so usefully employed. From which you will perceive that he is not without a share of humor. But he is a man terribly in earnest, all the same, and given to finding out things for himself. If he writes a book on America it will be a book of uncompromising truthfulness."

WHAT IS, AND WHAT MIGHT BE.

XXV.

CONCLUSION.

I have now been over the ground I intended to cover. My effort has been to set forth those stern underlying facts which are the real causes of Socialism, and to indicate the general direction in which the movement is tending. I have pointed out the enormous burdens of taxation to which the great nations of Europe are subjected, to pay the interest on war debts contracted by generations long since dead, to maintain the vast armies and navies of the present, and to support in magnificent and costly state the various monarchs, their courts and nobility. I have shown that the sums which the people voluntarily spend from their hard earnings for intoxicating liquors and tobacco are greater than the combined public expenses of their governments. I have explained how wealth became so unequally distributed by reason of the system of individual ownership supplanting the common ownership which before obtained; how competition has been increasing year by year, until it is becoming actually destructive and ruinous to nations and individuals; how, under competition, the great labor-saving inventions, instead of giving all the people more leisure and comfort as they should, have thrown out of employment vast numbers of laborers, who become tramps, paupers or criminals; how the people are trying to escape from these evil consequences of the system over them by overthrowing monarchies, establishing republics, organizing trade-unions, coöperative societies, etc.; and finally, I have pointed out the dangers which threaten all countries by the unrestricted increase of population.

Drawing together all the facts and figures I have presented on these points, we shall find that they make rather a gloomy picture of the social condition of mankind. We see strong nations which have struggled up out of a state of savagery into the civilization of our century, in which a large part of the people are, nevertheless, miserable. We can see them all, Russian, German, Frenchman, Englishman, American, trying to fight their way, inch by inch, out of bad conditions into better ones. They are constantly impelled forward. They struggle in the fixity of their own political and social institutions like bees in a spider's web. The institutions which fit one generation gall the next. Owing to changed conditions they become intolerable and have to be broken down. But the conservative element in society is so great that institutions are many-times retained long after their usefulness has departed, and sometimes until they become exceedingly oppressive. This is particularly the case in regard to social institutions. Judging by the past, it is not probable that men will awake to the importance of a voluntary control of population until they find themselves at the point of periodical starvations in consequence of overcrowding. The prejudice against Socialism prevents all but a few from investigating the advantages of combined households. The conservative delay on all such

points is so great that the amount of misery in the world does not decrease rapidly, even if it does not increase. But we may be sure that changes will come. Bad, oppressive governments will be forced to give place to better ones. Coöperation is forcing its way into the world, and other changes may be looked for.

In demonstrating the actual condition of mankind in regard to those features of life which are most oppressive, I have presented a great many statistical facts which have undoubtedly been very dry reading to all but those who have had sufficient interest in the subject to really grapple with figures. I am not afraid that earnest people have found the statistics tedious, for they give a key to the events of our time, now being recorded, day by day, as history.

It has become an established principle in all reputable institutions of learning that history should be studied with constant reference to the causes of the action recorded; and that historian who most clearly sets forth these causes, often obscure and hard to fix upon, is awarded the highest honor. Mere actions and dates in history are not of so much moment as the underlying causes which produced them. This is now well understood. Yet it is a matter of considerable difficulty, as every one must have noticed, to get at the interior phases of contemporary history. An event of importance occurs, such as the revolt of a certain people against their ruler; the reports of it in the newspapers are so contradictory, owing to haste and heedlessness in forwarding news and to intentional lying by the parties interested, that no true idea of it can be gathered at the time; and before the matter is effectually cleared up and the truth established, another event brings on another excitement, burying the first from thought. And so it happens that we live on without being sure that we have the true reasons for the events and actions taking place almost under our eyes. In no other matter is this more true than in regard to Socialism, owing to the strong and unreasoning prejudice which exists concerning it. It seems almost impossible to bring to the public mind a fair knowledge of what Socialism really is, and what it proposes. Years hence, when some patient historians shall have dug over our records and made an effort to separate the true from the false, a clearer idea of the movement may be offered to our posterity; but even then there is the chance that the historians will disagree, according to their personal bias, as widely as have the various writers of the Life of Napoleon I.

Men are apt to look at things through the medium of an education and habits of thought peculiar to themselves. The politician looks at humanity through political eyes, with reference to votes, power, influence, and position; the financier sees little but debts, credits, and possible profits or losses; the literary man scans his peculiar field for resources, and so on. He who would get a true knowledge of Socialism must look at his subject through a medium different from any of these. The first requisite to his attaining the truth is that he shall free his mind from the strong bias which custom, habit and old institutions are constantly forcing upon it. He must rise above the mere dogma of public opinion, and detach himself from the lazy notion that whatever is best, or that what has been must continue to be. When he sees a movement among the people of any country denoting unrest or dissatisfaction, he must school himself to study it calmly and dispassionately, without allowing his thoughts to be colored by the hasty opinions of his more thoughtless fellows. If what I have written shall aid others in any degree to reflect more temperately and wisely on the issues which Socialism presents, I shall feel amply rewarded for the effort.

F. W.-S.

THE END.

UNIVERSAL EDUCATION.

The present education system has done and is doing much for mankind; but under the existing organization of society, it is accompanied by two radical defects, which can only be remedied by a reconstruction of the social fabric.

In the first place, whilst it has been the aim to educate the intellect, society has failed to give all its members anything like a true intellectual expansion: it has presented inadequate means for that purpose. By a false system of distribution, multitudes are deprived of the means and leisure for mental improvement.

The intellectual progress of society is impeded by the spirit of mammon, which, throwing around education the consideration of dollars and cents, degrades it, and places it on the same level with mere buying and selling. And then, it is further hindered by selfishness, which separates mankind into isolated families and

castes, thereby presenting the very worst conditions for the growth of human beings, inasmuch as it prevents the more pure and refined from extending that influence which is needed by the less cultivated. It shuts off most of the magnetic interchange between men, which is so necessary in stimulating the unintellectual.

Secondly, while present society fails to give all of its members a just intellectual development, it also fails to give a proper training to all the members of the individual man. It can point to no school where one can have all the conditions necessary to the harmonious and continuous growth of every part of his nature—mental, moral, social and physical. Under the combination of false motives and inadequate facilities which now exists, men are obliged to seek improvement for one part of their natures at the hazard of neglecting and weakening another part.

As education is conducted in schools and colleges, it is always accompanied with the danger of loss of health and morals; thus more than counterbalancing what is gained by cultivating the intellect. If a man succeeds in gaining a good mental training without these losses, it often happens that he is greatly incapacitated as a social being; he becomes a mere book-worm, incapable of sympathizing with others. The result of the present system of education is to produce one-sided and distorted characters.

Harmonious education can only be secured by a community of interests; this will give to all the means for improvement. By combining the family, the school, the church and business in one household, free from worldly competition, the means will be secured to every one for an equitable development and integral education of every part of his nature.

ASSOCIATION IN AGRICULTURE.

[From The Worker.]

The chief obstacles to any such movements towards agriculture as the nation's condition demands are inherent in the individualistic action prevalent among our people. Their removal can be effected by Association. For one hundred families to migrate each by itself is to throw away the immense economic and social advantages that would ensue from a combination on their part. That lack of combination in making such a change and in the life on the soil has been the great defect of our action hitherto.

ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF ASSOCIATED AGRICULTURE.

The economic advantages of associated farming need only be considered to be perceived. To go forth alone to an isolated, unopened region, with no preparation on the spot in advance of the exodus is a formidable undertaking. To go out to a spot where the agents of a company have made all necessary preliminary provisions is a vastly easier experiment. One hundred families can make better common terms than any one single family can do; can hold and use the necessary expensive agricultural machines in common; can enact road laws which will prevent the waste of fencing; can lay out their farms so as to have some general system of farming to mutual advantage; can purchase seeds, tools, supplies of all sorts at wholesale; can sell their crops under one management on better terms; can in short utilize all the economies which make the agricultural work of communities so successful without any of their disadvantages. This interferes with no individuality of enterprise; each man receiving from the common economies pro rata to his individual labor and skill upon his own crops; while it adds all the advantages of a large estate worked by large capital and interested hands. It is no novel or untried experiment. It is the earlier system of every known race, disappearing only in comparatively modern times before the individualistic tendencies of our competitive epoch of civilization; still preserved in many parts of the world, and inevitably to be returned to in order to meet the difficulties of our present situation. In no other way can the small farmer compete with the owners of large lands in applying large capital to their "bonanza farms." These huge farms are growing in the West with dangerous rapidity. Monopolists in land as in trade, are forcing coöperation on the smaller men as their only salvation.

Moreover in such combination for common settlement regard can be had for the necessary industries of a community. Among the hundred can be counted in the carpenter, the mason, the wheel-wright, the blacksmith, etc., so that in dull times for agricultural labor the indispensable works of repair and supply can be carried on to the still further advantage of the community; and the embryo community commence the differentiation of its parts from the very beginning.

SOCIAL ADVANTAGES OF ASSOCIATED AGRICULTURE.

There are social drawbacks in farming as carried on in our purely individualistic system, which lie near the

ground of its unpopularity, and which are to be corrected by association. Our farmers live isolated lives, each family in the center of its fields, shut off by acres, impassable part of the year, from the nearest neighbors. The village is not so located as to afford a real center for social life. From the lack of this social life the young people leave the homestead and flock to the cities. As a poor soul said who was sent from New York to the country and turned up again in the old quarters after a few months—"People are more companionable than stumps." The French village is largely a real social center. The small farmers live close together and go out to their daily work on their farms, meeting together with their families in the evening. The Mennonites lay out a central village, the lots having narrow frontage on the street, where the houses stand, and widening in the rear. East Hampton, Long Island, presents this same feature, dating from its settlement in 1640; and it is occupied to-day chiefly by the very families which settled it 240 years ago! A village laid out in concentric circles, the larger farms on the outer circle, and so narrowing in towards the shops in the central circle, the avenues cutting the circles from center to circumference like the spokes of a wheel, meets the conditions for social nearness, while allowing wide latitude in size of lots. In some such way the necessity for nearness as the condition for social life must be met if farming is to be popular. Such associated settlements, moreover, can have the inestimable advantage of systematically laying out the township and securing every condition of well-being. Sanitary science can plan its drainage and make malaria a non-resident. As we ordinarily grow our towns at hap-hazard, there is no uniform system of drainage, and one man's outlay may be wholly neutralized by another man's neglect. Moral science can plan the foundation of the new community so that the after-structure shall follow the lines of purity and temperance. The terms of every land sale can estop the introduction of the worst institutions of our older towns, with their temptations to youth. The tavern, the gambling den, the brothel, can be prevented from finding a footing. The laws can be so ordered that the early generations of the community shall be trained to habits which shall enact the still stronger unwritten law against the social vices. Thus our New England ancestors stamped on their villages the character which endures in many an uncorrupted community still. Religion's best work for the future is in providing the right social conditions for the magnificent empire which is to rise upon our waste places. The saving effected by the economic advantages of association will alone build and support a thorough school system, the Kindergarten for the village little ones and the common school for the elder children, wherein a true industrial training shall be combined with general education. In the laying out of such a settlement aesthetics can be considered, without perceptible cost, and the future village be made beautiful as well as thrifty, feeding the imagination as well as the purse. Beauty is as cheap as ugliness. It only costs thought. Give nature a trellis or plan on which to run out her richness, and every village may become picturesque, every road lovely in embowering shade. Our farmers need not be soul-starved, as too commonly now amid useful uglinesses.

CO-OPERATION THE CAPITAL FOR COLONIZATION.

Coöperation furnishes the principle by which to start colonization as well as to carry it on. Here and there a wealthy man may plant a colony, and we hope to persuade public-spirited men of means to this sagacious philanthropy. The suffering workers in our crowded cities need not await the slow action of capitalists. They can create their own capital by Coöperation. A hundred families can unite their small savings, each family taking a share in a Coöperative colonization company. That which is lacking can easily be obtained if there is character and intelligence enough to obtain credit. Loans secured by first mortgages on the land will not be wanting for such an enterprise. A large amount of Eastern capital is now invested in mortgages on Western real estate. Cities are built on bonds. Such a colony's bonds will rate as high as the mushroom cities which are underlaid with paper. We shall urge upon workmen this solution to the problem of making new homes for themselves where life may smile again with hope. Self-help is the best cure for the wrongs of our workers.

CHARITY'S CHANGE IN CO-OPERATIVE COLONIZATION.

We propose to lay before our men of means the philanthropic and financial inducements to promote such colonization as we have sketched. A colony such as we have outlined is certainly the best form charity can take.

It takes a hundred families from want and wretchedness, and places them where health and comfort may be won. It surrounds one hundred families with the conditions under which their children may grow up innocent, intelligent, industrious. It counts off from prospective pauperism one hundred families, and makes of them, instead of burdens to society, wealth-producers. It lays the foundation for a community whose action shall help the health of the nation. We don't think we are enthusiastic in believing that we shall be able to convince public-spirited citizens that in this planting of wisely ordered colonies, whereunto shall be drafted the idle and discontented and burdensome of our cities, lies the secret of safety for society; and to persuade the philanthropic that herein is the most beneficent charity that can bless the suffering poor of our crowded centers.

The old world difficulties are coming upon us. The old world remedies must come in with them. Charity will have to study the relief colonization has always presented. Every crowded civilization has relieved itself thus. In the old world the State has organized and engineered colonization schemes, legislating land for the idle poor as the only safety-valve for the crowded cities. Voluntary action with us may take the place of State action. Again Coöperation furnishes capital the chance for this wisest charity, and the Joint Stock Company can do what the Government did of old. * *

OUR PERMANENT ACTION.

Our Association is committed to no pet scheme. If it prospers according to our hopes we will try different plans in years to come. We hope within the year to be in readiness to launch our first colony. During the summer our Society will be working in each of the preliminary directions, preparing the data from which to select the location for our initial experiment, and by personal intercourse on the part of our office secretary, as well as by correspondence with those thinking of colonizing, preparing the material from which to select our first colonists. At the same time we are on the lookout for the proper person to act as Manager of the Colony, requisite in any scheme provisionally, and are digesting the details of organization.

In the autumn we expect to lay before our men of means the plans for a Coöperative Colony Company in the form of a Joint-Stock Association; and we hope during the winter or early in the spring, according as we move South or West, to start forth our first-born. Should this experiment prosper we shall follow it with others in successive years; each having probably some special feature of its own; each colony being under the management of its own association. Our own Association, according to its full name, "The Coöperative Colony Aid Association," reserves to itself the role of foster fatherhood. With the launching into life of one bantling it can take a new charge upon its hands. We can thus make the planting of colonies a permanent work. Our hope is to accomplish a species of philanthropic plumbing and fashion a permanent escape-pipe for the overflow of our crowded centers, through which their stagnating accumulations of human energy may pour out over our waste places, sweetening into purity as they spread upon the earth, and fertilizing it till the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. There is a chronic choking of the crowded centers of civilization in our competitive civilization. No spasmodic action of relief can meet the case. The social structure needs the construction of a permanent provision for draining off the surplus supply of labor. The social mechanism needs an ever-acting arrangement for saving the human waste thrown down and converting it into self-supporting, wealth-producing lives. It is a great aim. Difficulties are plentiful. We are not blind to them. Our eyes are upon the past with its successes and failures. Of failures there are an abundance—enough to prevent any rash confidence. But there is in nearly every instance some discoverable error which can be avoided. Accidental mistakes need not prejudice the idea. Colonization is no experiment. In some form it is the world-old method of relieving over-population. Its history is full of magnificent successes as well as deplorable failures. Our own country is the living example of successful colonization. We have but to follow the track of historical experiments to discover the shoals on which colonies have been wrecked, and the channels of action wherein there is safety for new voyages. We shall study carefully before we move. When we move we shall move not in the direction of our intuitions, laying our course by *a priori* notions of what the world ought to be, but by actual observation of what it is, as laid down by the pathway of our predecessors. We don't feel that we have ventured upon any Utopian scheme. What has been done can be done

again. What all the world has done our nineteenth century can do. What has been done hastily, crudely, theoretically, and failed—can be done carefully, thoroughly, practically—and succeed. Now, as heretofore, around one successful example, imitators will spring up. If we thrive other cities will form local Colonization Aid Societies or enter into alliance with our Association, which by its constitution is tied to no local action, and may grow into a central, national society, with branches in the different cities. Our full aim is to make Coöperative Colonization an integral part of our social system.

CEDAR HILL FARM.

THE NOVEL CHARITABLE ENTERPRISE OF A NEW YORK BANKER—TRAINING FARMERS.

[From the New York Sun.]

A banker of this city bought last spring a farm of 120 acres, with good buildings, near Flagtown, Somerset County, N. J., and about two hours by rail from New York. It is called Cedar Hill. He engaged a scientific agriculturist and veterinary surgeon from Germany as manager, and though unconnected with any charitable or religious association, has since employed a regular working force of ten men from those who have sought work from the Bowery branch of the Young Men's Christian Association. He gives them good food, good bedding, satisfactory clothing, and pays their fare to the farm, but gives no wages. After being initiated into farm work, positions with farmers are found, either in the neighborhood or by the Christian Association for them, providing they prove desirable. In five cases out of ten they have so proved; but others, unwilling to work the daily allotted time, have been sent back. In this way from thirty to forty young men in sore need have found a comfortable temporary home till situations with wages could be found. A few have remained from the beginning contented with the life and associations of the place. They eat with the family of Mr. George Marx, the manager, and are received as friends into his house in the evening, although sleeping in a separate building. A library and newspapers, with chess and checkers, are at their disposal, and for outdoor games quoits and ninepins are provided. The singing of a hymn to a melodeon, the reading of a chapter in the Bible, and the saying of the Lord's Prayer by the manager, take place every morning and evening, and grace is said before every meal. Each man makes his own bed after dressing, and two men are especially detailed every week for a daily cleaning of the bedrooms.

The work of the men in general is from seven in the morning until six in the evening, excepting an hour's leisure at dinner-time. Eighty-seven acres of the farm were under cultivation at the time of purchase, 53 being in grass, and 34 ready for the plow. The rest was in woodland. The 34 acres have been planted, and the labor of the manager and two men has been sufficient for the whole 87. The remaining average of eight have been employed upon improvements, as painting and repairing the buildings, mending fences, digging ponds, cutting firewood, attending to stock, breaking stones for macadamizing the entrance road, etc., and the farm, at the close of a year, will be of considerably greater intrinsic value than when purchased. A calculation has been made that at the close of this season enough produce will have been realized to pay the expenses of the residents, including the salary of the manager, and to furnish food for the stock; but nothing can be reserved for interest on the purchase money or toward paying for the horses and cattle bought. If the superintendent had worked with two men, wages might have been paid them and the interest covered. The apparent loss created by the extra eight men has been compensated by the improvements they have made. It is intended next year to cultivate more land, to greatly improve the farm, and to employ a much larger force.

The laborers have been chiefly English, with an occasional Irishman or American, but none have been German. The Christian Association rarely has German applicants, and few Irish, as both find assistance or work among their countrymen. English residents are comparatively few, and English immigrants needing aid have difficulty in procuring it. One young man on the farm received a handsome sum of money from his parents, which enabled him to quit. As he was needed at the time, he remained until a man could be procured in his place, and departed expressing regret. The most troublesome among those found objectionable was an English theological student who had relinquished his Episcopal studies, and was insolent when desired to work. He endeavored to make the others discontented, and on receiving money from home induced two men to

go away with him, under promise of suits of clothes on reaching the city.

The manager thinks that similar undertakings to Cedar Hill Farm could be established to the benefit of those employed and those who buy the farms. If a fair number of capitalists were to buy cheap land with a view to their improvement and cultivation, they would aid many needy persons and probably be able to sell their property at a handsome profit. The charitable institutions of the city could keep them constantly supplied with labor, which would cost nothing beyond the expense of food and clothing; but to keep the men it would be necessary to make their home as agreeable as that of Cedar Hill. Such attempts would be useful to the country at large, for farmers and colonizing companies could obtain from them men whose dispositions and capacity for labor have been tested.

THE VAGARIES OF FASHION.

[From Harper's Weekly.]

There is one thing which we have never been able to understand, and which we believe few can possibly comprehend or explain. It is the vagary of female fashion. Who it is that invents it, and has the knack to maintain it as long as he pleases, and then with equal audacity and success start something fresh, is all a mystery. The phenomenon is by no means new. A hundred and sixty years ago the old essayists were at a loss to know how the extravagant oddities of female attire originated, and were so cleverly kept up in spite of torrents of ridicule. Then, as now, a new fashion had its run or a few years, and dropped out of use as mysteriously as it commenced, was followed by something equally preposterous.

In these vagaries of fashion there seems for the time being to be a kind of mental derangement—perhaps more correctly the prostration of intellect, through a deficiency of moral courage. Forty years ago the lady part of mankind fell into a mania for wearing dresses with huge shoulders blown up like balloons. It amounted to a purposeless distortion of the person. So everybody said it was. But the avowal made no difference. Sleeves must be made six times larger than they need be. Shoulders must be distorted, rendered positively ugly. It was the fashion, and that was enough. In due time, when the mania had run its course, the ballooning was given up, and shoulders shrunk to their natural figure. When it was all over, no one ventured to explain how the frenzy had originated, or what was its meaning. On the contrary, as if ashamed of the weakness, the subject was skillfully dropped. Next in the order of this species of feminine dementia came the crinoline vagary. A petticoat of horse-hair and whalebone was employed to distend the outer dress far beyond the person. It was a resumption of hoops, with the difference that while hoops expanded sidewise, the crinoline spread out all round. Every woman had the shape of a hand-bell, wide at the lower edge and small above. Gracefulness was out of the question. If the object was to produce a monstrosity, it was eminently successful. The crinoline mania had a fair run of several years, and given up, there occurred the fresh surprise how it ever had received the slightest encouragement.

Crinolines of every variety having been relinquished, feminine society is sorely in want of a new eccentricity. It would be against all rule not to appear ridiculous. So wits are at work in the grand arcana of fashion. The world had not long to wait. The fiat goes forth from somewhere that, as a superlative novelty, dresses are to be worn tight to the person from top to toe. Instead of paddings and ballooning, there is to be squeezing so tightly as to be hardly able to breathe. To impede walking, and if possible to prevent sitting, the legs are to be held back with strings. By way of compensation for the tightening up, the dress is to be made so long as to trail three or four feet on the ground. Such may be called the present fashionable régime, maintained, as usual, with the force of inexorable law. Woe be to the fine lady who does not make herself as lank as a skinned rabbit, and who fails in the tuckings and tyings to restrain locomotion! What her natural shape may be is nothing to the point. She may not be able to go up or down stairs, except by one foot at a time, like a child learning to walk, but that is of no consequence. Fashion demands that she shall appear maimed in the lower limbs. The law is to be obeyed, and there's an end of it.

Slim in figure, squeezed like a wasp, and with head-dresses as fantastic as can be devised, there is one more token of high fashion. It is a return to the antiquated practice of wearing high-heeled shoes, which happily falls in with the plan of bandaging back the legs, to prevent freedom in walking. The folly of distorting the foot,

by throwing the pressure unduly on the toes, is so manifestly vicious, and has been so frequently the subject of remonstrance, that it calls only for a passing denunciation. Those who are guilty of the error will in this as in some other matters live to regret their weakness. The wonder is how the ridiculous extravagances in attire, which are here barely alluded to, should for a moment have met with any degree of support. In the article of dress, men and women appear to have pursued an entirely different course for the last fifty years. The tendency in male attire has been toward extreme simplicity—perhaps too extremely so—while, as regards the female mode of dressing, according to fashion, it has been a succession of wild eccentricities, always going from bad to worse.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1879.

THE Coöperative Colony Aid Association of New York is a new organization with whose aims the readers of the *SOCIALIST* should be familiar. We therefore transfer to our columns the principal portions of an article in *The Worker*, its monthly exponent, setting forth its plans and what it hopes to accomplish. The names of the persons already connected with the Association are a strong guaranty that it will not lend its support to worthless schemes of speculation. Its Executive Committee are: J. H. Rylance, D.D., Joseph Seligman, Hon. John Wheeler, Charles F. Deems, D.D., George B. Satterlee, F. B. Thurber, Courtlandt Palmer, D. D. Williamson, Rev. R. Heber Newton, Felix Adler, Ph. D., E. V. Smalley. The preliminary meetings of the Association were attended by Hon. John Jay, Dorman B. Eaton, Rev. Henry C. Potter, Rev. O. B. Frothingham, Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson and others.

GREAT ENTERPRISES.

The present time is fruitful in schemes of great magnitude. There are already projected:

- A new suspension bridge over Niagara river;
 - A new Atlantic Cable in addition to that now in process of construction;
 - A ship-canal across the Isthmus of Darien;
 - A ship-railroad across the same strip of land, separating two oceans;
 - A railroad over the desert of Sahara, connecting Algeria with Soudan;
 - A canal which, conveying the waters of the Mediterranean into the sands of Africa, shall make a great inland sea and fertilize arid wastes;
 - The establishment of water-communication between the Black and Caspian seas.
- Add to these enterprises, most of which seem likely to be undertaken in the near future:
- Ericson's scheme for utilizing the sun's heat;
 - Edison's scheme for utilizing electricity;
 - The various plans of geographical discovery;
 - The solution of the mysteries of Central Africa, and the civilization of its savages;
 - The destruction of the world's plagues;
 - The emancipation of every slave;
 - Universal education;
 - The adjustment of the relations of labor and capital;
 - The solution of the population question;
 - The discovery and adoption of the final form of society;
- And we need not fear that the world's great thinkers and doers will get out of work and have to go tramping for a long time to come.

MORAL ADVANTAGES OF COMBINATION.

The material advantages of Communism are very numerous and important, but its moral advantages are of still greater value. By Communism we mean, not only external combination, but union of purpose and life. If many hands make light work in the shop and in the field, many spirits make light work in the department of moral improvement. Suppose, for instance, that a Community discovers in its study of the truth that a certain habit or custom, received by tradition from their fathers and having power over them, is unprofitable, and conclude unanimously to abandon it. Then the movement of the whole makes the indi-

vidual efforts comparatively easy. Those who have the most moral strength break the way, and others are helped sympathetically. We often hear persons say of the ease with which they have parted from habits that once they thought were inseparable attachments, "It is a miracle!" In the medium of the Community spirit they realize victories which alone they could not have attempted. In proportion, of course, as a person's life is lost in the common life, which is a great current setting toward perfection, will his progress be easy and rapid.

RIGHT CONDITIONS.

Let no one think that he can conquer the first impressions of his youth. If he has grown up in enviable freedom, surrounded with beautiful and noble objects, in constant intercourse with worthy men; if his masters have taught him what he needed most to know, for comprehending more easily what followed; if he has never learned anything which he requires to unlearn; if his first operations have been so guided, that without altering any of his habits he can more easily produce what is excellent in future: then such a one will lead a purer, more perfect and happier life, than another man who has wasted the force of his youth in opposition and error. A great deal is said and written about education; yet I meet with very few who can comprehend and transfer to practice, this simple yet vast idea, which includes within itself all others connected with the subject.

Suppose Fate had appointed any one to be a great painter, and it pleased Chance that he should pass his youth in sooty huts, in barns and stables; do you think that such a man would ever be enabled to exalt himself to purity, to nobleness, to freedom of soul? The more keenly he may in his youth have seized on the impure, and tried in his own manner to ennoble it, the more powerfully in the remainder of his life will it be revenged on him; because, while he was endeavoring to conquer it, his whole being has become inseparably combined with it. Whoever spends his early years in mean and pitiful society, though at an after period he may have the choice of better, will yet constantly look back with longing toward that which he enjoyed of old, and which has left its impression blended with the memory of all his young and unreturning pleasures.

—Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister*.

There seems to be much reason in Goethe's idea that education is an insensible process going on all the time in children by means of the *impressions* which they receive from the persons and scenes around them. The same agency still affects us after we leave childhood and through life. The aim of society then should be to provide proper surroundings and associations for every child that is born into it. The question forces itself whether ordinary civilization is doing what should be done in this respect—whether as a system it is not responsible for much of the crime-tendency which is continually breaking out within its borders. Look at the recent crimes in our large cities. These all must have sprung from unnoticed seeds sown in childhood among the filthy and villainous haunts in which many children, especially in cities, are still obliged to live and grow up. If society permits such a seed-sowing, should it wonder at the harvest? Illustrations might be multiplied showing that the vicious characteristics of criminals may be traced in their ancestors for generations back—a fact showing the deadly force of association and companionship in educating children to evil.

Communism attempts at least to avoid this negligence of society, and to supply throughout life, and particularly to children, only wholesome and refining educational influences. While it rejects the idleness and ostentatious luxury of mere wealth, it will naturally accumulate in its homes a store of objects of art and beauty, fitted to give the best turn to the youthful imagination, and develop whatever capacities it may have for improvement. But no form of earthly society or environment is sufficient for our right education; we must look higher, discover the beauties of the inner world, and associate with heavenly companions, in order to make the best progress.

WITHOUT DISSIMULATION.

Have you a friend, reader, that is so near to you that the *Truth* does not come between you and that friend? Have you those around you whose honor you prize, or whose displeasure you fear, more than you love and reverence the Truth? In short, do you suffer the Truth to be suppressed on any account? If you do, you are an enemy to yourself, an enemy to your friend and to

the good of all concerned. Only as you surround yourself by the "fiery element of honesty" can you be safe from the contagion of evil. You are in danger from those who cleave unto you by flatteries; from those the fear of whom is a snare to you; from your bosom friend and most indifferent associate. Any friendship that does not admit the truth to come in and salt it, is a corrupt thing. Love and criticism must go together in the present state of human character. There is no relation good that cannot freely invite the Truth into its most private sanctuary.

We will keep the Truth between us and every one we have anything to do with, is the motto that we should learn to live by. Then there is no danger in the attractions of friendship. The Truth will keep all unions pure and sweet. Then the fear of man will not be a snare to us. If we cleave to the Truth and keep it between us and others, we may defy the seductions of flattery, and the frowns of offense; and only by this course are we safe from the deceitfulness of our own passions.

It is a selfish, pleasure-seeking spirit that shrinks from telling a friend the truth, when he might improve by it; we do not seek that friend's good, but we seek our own enjoyment in his approbation. The true spirit is willing to lose favor and be misjudged, if it can serve another by sincerity; and at any rate it will have nothing to do with love which is a debtor to dissimulation.

VISITORS AT O. C.

III.

THE ENRAPTURED.

We have described two classes of visitors to the Community, the *imaginative* and the *perplexed*. There is a third, which might be called the *enraptured*. These are charmed with what they see, and translated by what they feel. In the house they say, "Oh, how neat—what order! Is it so in every part?" Out of doors they exclaim, "Paradise! the garden of Eden! fairy land! We want to stay forever!" It were vain to repeat the exclamations of delight with which visitors of this kind embarrass those who may be waiting upon them. Their compliments are taken as compliments to Communism, for we certainly do not strain ourselves to be neat within, nor to make things beautiful around the house. Everything of that kind comes naturally to the strong, buoyant life of a large Community. Then think, we have a whole village of families here; but how much less than a village of houses and lawns to keep in order! Why should we not find it easy to be nice? I do not have a kitchen and dining-room and parlor and chambers and attic and cellar and wash-room and court, besides my own room, all to take care of or oversee myself. Really, madam, I am afraid I should not be so nice as you are in that case, for I am discouraged at the thought. Here we have two kitchens, three dining-rooms, two parlors, a half-dozen sitting-rooms and so on, to fifty housekeepers. The rooms are large, but probably not eight times larger than yours. So with the garden and lawn and every department, there is less ground, proportionally, to go over and more hands to help. We would not undertake, with our means, to save from utter shiftlessness and dilapidation a common scattered village of the same number of families that live together here. However, we do not go over all this reasoning with these enraptured folks. They may think what they admire is a miracle, if they wish, for Communism is itself a miracle; though that it should make everything beautiful around it is not a miracle, but the most natural thing in the world.

Visitors of lively palates praise our dinners. A gentleman who had been here before, came lately with some friends, to whom he was heard to say, "If you want to get the best dinner in the United States you must come to the Oneida Community." Our *asparagus* in the early season of this year was the subject of so much remark that it seemed simply ridiculous. "How do you make it so green? so tender? so delicious? We shall want to come again if for nothing else." It is the city folks that lose their senses over our table. The genuine cream, the sweet butter, the new-laid eggs, the peas just from the vine, the vegetables just from the garden—they are not used to such freshness, and it delights them, they know not why. Then we have a rustic bounty, not common at hotels, which matches perhaps the sharpened appetite of excursionists.

It is seldom a woman praises our short-dress; but *men* who are sick of stepping on ladies' trails, sick of the impediments attaching to the fashionable costume—hindering women from being good companions to them in out-door pleasures—sick of the many feeblenesses entailed by this costume, sick of the cost of this costume—

they sometimes find a theme of rapture in the dress of the O. C. women.

We received a call this morning from two Spiritualist ladies. They were from the East, and on a journey to attend a convention of some kind. Their ecstasies suggested the classification above (and, forsooth, this continuation of our notes of visitors). "How blessed! such a beautiful spirit! such peace!" "I felt it," said one of them, "the moment I set foot on the grounds—O such a heavenly, balmy atmosphere! so quieting." (Both professed to be exceedingly impressive to spiritual influences.) There is a quiet spirit at the Shakers," said they, "but it is lifeless and effeminate, not cheerful and strong as here." "I feel just as I do when I go into a trance," said one, "lifted up from the earth." "I can imagine I am in the spirit-land," said the other. We could not hear all this without some confusion, thinking that a little free talk between us might suddenly change their feelings about the atmosphere here. Another good lady, that came here to-day and went all around on two crutches, even to the top of the tower, declared that she should go home and tell her folks that she "had seen the garden of Eden where Adam and Eve were born. I never expected to see that," said she, "but I have seen it."

A girl who stood by when this speech was repeated to me, naively observed, "I wonder if she would think it a paradise after she had staid here awhile and gone through three or four criticisms?"

We can readily conceive that the spirit of love which assuredly reigns here should impress susceptible persons, and be to some natures and moods like wine; and it is thus we account for the exhilaration so often manifested, and for the illusions of beauty which float before the eyes of the enraptured. But as the grape has to be crushed for the wine, and the flower sometimes for its perfume, so all that is beautiful in our life and atmosphere is the wine and perfume of crushed selfishness—the aroma of natures that have known the cross of Christ and its sufferings and losses. A MEMBER.

COMMUNITY ITEMS.

ONEIDA.

—The Turkish Bath is closed on Sunday.

—Some of our employees are making an effort to abandon the use of tobacco.

—Here it is the month of August and yet the grass and trees are as green as in June.

—The farmers have finished threshing their barley and winter wheat. 953 bushels of barley and 240 of winter wheat.

—The children had a fine picnic Saturday afternoon, in a cedar grove near the banks of Sconondoah Creek, about two miles from home.

—The florist reports that a calladium leaf grew last week five inches in length in two days, and that a cypripedium vine added three inches to its length in one day.

—There was a great commotion under our window the other evening. Glancing out, we saw one of the boys seated in a miniature "Tally Ho," urging forward his prancing steeds with feet and voice, while a noisy troop of children followed in his wake shouting with glee at the possession of this new toy.

—Since January 1, the O. C. has received 164 letters of inquiry. Of these, 105 contain applications for membership, and two-thirds of the remainder ask for information about terms of admission, rules, regulations, by-laws, etc. It is queer how they can want to come to this "horrid place," just when this "foul blot" is about to be wiped from the face of the earth," too.

—When Richard went to examine his traps the other morning he found in one of them an owl and a red squirrel, each caught by a leg, and both dead. They bore marks of having engaged in a mortal combat in their struggles to get free, the owl evidently having had the worst of it. Trappers say that the catching of an owl and a squirrel in this manner is very unusual, and must be accounted for in the supposition that the squirrel, when accidentally passing over the trap, was pounced upon by its predaceous enemy.

—In common with many others throughout the country, we lost most of our bees during the past unfavorable winter and spring—saving only two weak colonies out of twenty-one strong ones which we had at the beginning of winter. One hundred and fifty pounds of buckwheat honey and twenty-two pounds of wax were, however, taken from the comb left by the dead bees. In the spring we obtained three swarms of a neighbor, and afterward purchased two nuclei, or very small swarms, of Italian bees. From the five colonies we had

in the spring our bee-man has taken thus far more than three hundred and fifty pounds of nice honey, and at the present time has bees in seventeen hives.

—It is generally supposed that any violent change in the physical conditions of a person of extreme age is almost sure to be followed by disastrous results. An instance in contradiction of this hypothesis has lately occurred among us, which is of so remarkable a character that it deserves to be put on record. About a year ago Mrs. P., who had been for more than forty years a believer in the doctrines of Bible Communism, took up her abode in our W. C. home for the purpose of ending her days among the people of her choice. She had already passed four-score years and ten, and little could be expected of her in the way of change of life-long habits. When a little girl she began using tobacco, and before she was aware of what she was doing she became so dependent on the stimulant that although shame and other considerations had forced her to make many efforts to free herself, she had found it impossible to break the fetters which bound her. About two months ago an unintentional neglect, on the part of those who attended to her wants, deprived her for several days of her wonted narcotic. She said nothing, but formed a resolution to do without it, and accordingly, when her nurse observing her lack hastened to serve her, she declined to receive a fresh supply. Her friends carefully watched her symptoms in order that they might interfere in time to prevent any injurious results from the execution of her heroic purpose. For a few days she felt a slight disturbance in her system, though nothing marked; but now for a number of weeks she has given evidence of improved health and strength, and, to her joy and surprise, the appetite for tobacco is gone. For eighty years she was a slave, and now she is free. Won't that help her to get on in the hereafter?

CORRESPONDENCE.

Bakersfield, Cal., July 20, 1879.

EDITORS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST:—How shall we keep the people from putting the cart before the horse—Communism before Religion? I do not find more than twelve in a hundred but what ask, "How much money have you?" "Have you a nice, cozy home like Oneida, with plenty of members, so all can run smooth like clock-work? for I am tired of the battle of life and want something better." Now what we think is needed is more earnest, sincere effort to attain the love of Christ. I believe true love is ready to gather up all it has, travel if necessary to the ends of the earth, there lay everything down and say, "These with my life are thine, only let me love and labor with thee;" and behold a natural Community! Now, will not reformers think of this, and seek our beloved teacher, Jesus; lay all at his feet, and, as they become one with him, become one with all who serve him? so that the question shall be, Are we one in Christ? or can we help one another to grow nearer him, leaving all pecuniary questions for secondary consideration, each having faith that if we together truly seek the Kingdom of Heaven all necessary things will be added as a reward of righteous labor? ISAAC B. RUMFORD.

WOMAN'S TOPICS.

A Working Women's Industrial Union has been organized in Chicago.

The *Commonwealth* pays the high compliment to Mrs. Livermore of saying, "She is not behind Beecher in effective oratory."

"A Ragged Register" is the title of a new work by Anna E. Dickinson in the press of the Harpers—said to be chiefly a record of her experiences and observations as a lecturer.

It is reported that Mrs. Asa B. Hutchinson, one of the famous family of singers, has become exceedingly wealthy by the purchase of an unworked mine at Leadville, Col., which has since proved to be very rich.

Miss Anna Oliver is owner and pastor of a church in Brooklyn, N. Y. She receives no salary, and says she would not consent to receive any definite sum for her services. There is a box in the vestibule labeled, "For the pastor's salary." Miss Oliver only expects to receive what is put into this box. On the board of trustees of the Society are two women, and no other Methodist congregation in the world, it is claimed, can say as much.

A contributor to the *Inter-Ocean* has this word on the isolation of farmers' wives: "Man is a social being, so is woman, only more so. She must have some one to talk to, some female friend into whose ear she can pour her sorrows and her joys. This is often quite impossible among farmers' wives, as the occasions for social chit-chat are infrequent among neighbors, who often live too far apart and have too much work to do to take the time to run into a neighbor's

house. Why is it that the statistics of our lunatic asylums show that there are more by far of farmers' wives as inmates than from any other class or profession? In locations where the Grange is a prominent feature, where meetings are held from twice to four times a month, our farmers' wives exchange ideas, thoughts and experiences, and in such locations you will find happier women, and hence better-natured men than where the Patrons of Husbandry do not exist."

The *Reading (Pa.) Eagle* is responsible for the following nonagenarian story: "Elizabeth Leibesberger, aged ninety-two, resides in Richmond township, this county, and is in all probability one of the richest maiden ladies in this county. She owns several beautiful farms in Richmond township, where she has lived nearly all her life. Her brother is also a large land owner. Miss Leibesberger is remarkably well preserved. She was never married, and has lived ninety-two years in single blessedness, without being dragged down by the cares of married life, domestic troubles and other vexations and tribulations. She has silvery gray hair, is neat and trim in appearance, and considering her great age is quite active and alert. A few days ago her farmhands commenced hay-making. To their great surprise, the aged lady and land owner made her appearance in the field, rake in hand. She was suitably dressed for the occasion, her skirts and dress being well gathered in and tucked back, so as not to drag or give her any trouble in moving freely over the field. She said she was going to show them how to work. This was greeted with clapping of hands and cheers. Miss Leibesberger went to work in good earnest, tossed the hay over and over, raked it into rows from one end of the field to the other, and then helped to rake it in piles, and finally assisted in loading and raking after the wagons. It was an exhibition of old-time hay-making, the way 'they used to do when she was a young girl,' she said, 'before the patent machinery was ever heard of.' The lady worked in the field the entire day and kept up her pluck remarkably well."

The following reminiscence of a Boston girl is given by Mr. L. C. Elson: "In the upper story of Chickering & Sons' building, accessible by an elevator, there exists a tastefully furnished room, containing two concert grand-pianofortes, and a beautiful mahogany case containing every piece of music that exists for two pianofortes, two players, and for two pianofortes, four players (eight hands). Every symphony, concerto, overture, suite, etc., etc., to the extent in value of about three thousand dollars, is there, conveniently bound, with catalogues complete. Under appropriate rules for the convenience of the beneficiaries this room is absolutely free to all, even without the asking. That this wonderful place is in constant use from morning until night, and has been from the moment it was inaugurated until now (nearly two years), is a matter of course. Whence came all this? A few years since there died in Boston a lovely girl of twenty-two (a fine pianist herself), a daughter of the Hon. A. A. Burrage, who, on her death-bed, expressed the wish that the little property of which she was possessed should be given, under the direction of Mr. B. J. Lang (the husband of her cousin), to deserving musical students. The before-mentioned collection of music was purchased with Miss Ruth Burrage's money. Messrs. Chickering & Sons allowed Mr. Lang to construct the room and to retain it free, of rent for the purpose so long as they (the Messrs. Chickering) occupy the building; and, furthermore, do generously supply, free of cost, the two grand-pianofortes. Consider what delight one can get from this place? Have you two grand-pianofortes? Have you a hundred and fifty volumes of music for those two pianofortes? This is a very expensive sort of music, while it is not just what one cares to own year in and year out. This attractive place is called the 'Ruth Burrage Room.' May this little description lead some generous mortal to carry out the same idea in some other of our musical centers."

BIRDS MUST DIE AND CHILDREN STARVE.

[London Letter to New York Times.]

The other day I came upon a new store in the city. The windows were fairly dazzling with color. A stray sunbeam falling upon them, the shop front flashed back a rainbow of blue and green and red and yellow, indigo and vermilion, amber and black and white. I paused to gaze. It was a store devoted to the modern fashion of adorning ladies' hats, bonnets, and dresses with birds and butterflies. All the corners of the earth had been ransacked to satisfy this new craze. Whole birds' wings, tails, breasts, were here by the thousand. Butterflies and whole humming-birds vied with each other in wealth of color and beauty of arrangement. It is true there are lots of stores in London devoted to specimens of "natural history," where these things may be purchased; but here is a shop full of them, not as studies or specimens, but as articles of adornment. Travelers and others tell me that bird slaughter as a trade has now reached such proportions as threaten the very extinguishment of some of the rarest as well as the gayest species. One can understand this when stated on

authority that a German dealer in this city recently received a consignment of 32,000 dead humming-birds, 80,000 aquatic birds of several varieties, and 800,000 pairs of wings. This to one dealer alone; while at the same time all the other traders are increasing their orders to foreign shippers. There is something very sad in these figures. Surely our women cannot think about the subject, or they would never promote this sacrifice of bird life for a mere freak of fashion. The rage for feather trimmings has almost annihilated the ribbon trade of Coventry. Men, women and children in that once busy city are starving because fashion has produced a new style of ornament. So that to please the whim birds must die and children must starve. You may stand "on the bridge at Coventry" now and see scores of people loitering there who, but for the superseding of ribbons by feathers, would be busily at work in the locked-up mills.

SONNET.

BY T. W. HIGGINSON.

There are great souls among us! In the prime
Of Grecian strength or England's loftiest days
I find no names more meet for reverent praise,
Than theirs who 'mid us now work on sublime;
Teachers whose deep words lead this selfish time
To heaven-wide musings;—patriot orators
Whose Christ-anointed lips are rich with stores
Of burning, fearless Truth;—poets whose rhyme
Hath never stooped to sound a meaner song
Than love for all God's children;—women pure
Who lend their stainless hands to labors strong,
Deeming their birthright to such duty sure,
Though fools deride. Dear native land, how long
Against such prophets shall thy crimes endure?

THE OPENING OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

[From the Scientific American.]

It is, relatively speaking, so long since the American people became convinced of the ultimate success of the splendid engineering enterprise just brought to successful conclusion at the mouth of the Mississippi, that there is danger that the immediate credit due to Captain Eads may be popularly underestimated. Men are too apt to forget that when he began the work he did so at his own risk, and in the face of strong and persistent opposition from engineers in high authority. They forget that all along he has had to conquer not only the commercial barriers at the mouth of our great river, but to do it hampered by severe restrictions, even the payments for work done being contingent on the approval of engineers whose greatest joy would be in his entire discomfiture.

There is danger, too, of forgetting the magnitude of the work, and the enormous commercial possibilities the scheme involves, as well as the great power of the opposing local interests whose prosperity was endangered by every stroke done toward opening the mouth of the Mississippi to the free and easy passage of commerce. The moral and financial victory won by Captain Eads is accordingly greater even than his victory over material obstacles; and the latter were great enough to justify our classing the work among the most difficult, costly and courageous achievements of hydraulic engineering. In commenting on the work the *Tribune* reminds us that when the jetty company began its operations at South Pass, the commercial entrance to the Mississippi was at Southwest Pass, but only light-draught vessels were sure of getting in. A ship drawing over sixteen feet was liable to get fast on the bar and remain there until she unloaded her cargo upon lighters. The cost of unloading and reloading and of the long delay more than absorbed the profits of the voyage. Besides the obstruction of the bar, which constant work by Government steam-dredges for more than twenty years had failed to remove, there were the curious mud-lumps which, heaving up from the bottom outside the river's mouth, often caught ships in their sticky embrace. Southwest Pass was, however, the main channel, and the only practical entrance for craft larger than fishing smacks. South Pass had only six feet of water on its bar, and Pass à l'Outre and the old Belize had long been closed. The Government would not allow Captain Eads to work upon Southwest Pass, which, having by far the greatest volume of water, was most easily improvable. It was feared he would ruin the poor channel existing there, and so choke up the river completely. He had to take South Pass, and was compelled, in order to get enough water in it, to throw sunken mattresses across the heads of the other passes. Then he had to conquer a shoal at the head of South Pass, and stop up an outlet through which a portion of the current escaped into the Gulf. All this was preliminary and additional to the real jetty work, which consisted in building two walls from the river's mouth straight out into the Gulf for a distance of nearly three miles, to the

outer verge of the bar—a wall that would resist the force of the current and the buffetings of the sea.

Our readers have followed in the pages of the *Scientific American* the progress of this most useful work, from its inception to the successful conclusion recently announced. The river is now permanently open, and its currents are so controlled that the mighty stream will henceforth be the chief factor in keeping its channel clear of the barriers it naturally tended to build up against the commerce of the world. When the Mississippi valley harbors, as it soon will, a more numerous population than the whole country can boast of now; when its farms and factories are doing, as they soon will, half the productive work of the world—then it will be possible to form some adequate idea of the industrial and commercial benefit to flow from the unbarring of the outlet of what cannot fail to be the great artery of our national and international trade. It is a grand victory, and Captain Eads may be sure that popular appreciation of its grandeur will grow with the growth of the commerce it makes possible.

PROGRESS IN FISH CULTURE.

[From the Scientific American.]

It is impossible to estimate the advantages which have already resulted from the efforts of our national and State fish commissions to restock our rivers with shad and other fish. This season alone 15,000,000 eggs have been hatched, and in the last eight years 48,000,000 young fish have been turned loose. It is noted that while formerly the fish were found rarely outside the rivers that empty into the Atlantic Ocean between Cape Cod and Florida, they are now in the Gulf of Mexico streams, the tributaries of the Mississippi, the California rivers, and those of Maine. They have increased in great numbers in Lake Ontario, although their growth is very slow. Several of three pounds' weight have been taken this spring near Sackett's Harbor, and it is possible that they may mature there.

Rapid progress has been made in propagation of freshwater fish. So nearly perfect is the process of hatching brook-trout eggs at the State hatching-house in Caledonia that more than 98 per cent. become healthy fish. The same success attends the hatching of salmon, black bass, white fish, and other varieties. These results are so satisfactory that the commissioners are turning their attention toward cultivating food for fish, rather than seeking new methods of hatching. The object is to fill streams which hitherto have been barren of fish. There are many water-courses in which the brook trout has not thrived, although the conditions of temperature and the quality of the water have seemed favorable. The reason was that the stream was wanting in food for the fish. The commission's investigations have proved that certain plants and shrubs attract insects which are the trout's natural food. The problem of how to raise the fish in barred streams was therefore successfully solved by planting in the streams the insect-producing sedges and mosses. Once started, the vegetation increases of itself, bringing with it the animalcula. The learning of the botanist and the entomologist is thus brought to the aid of the pisciculturist.

If properly protected the food fishes of the State will swarm the waters in greater numbers ten years hence than they do at the present day. In many lakes and rivers there is already a noticeable increase. The black bass of the Delaware grow more plentiful every year. The white fish have appeared in increasing numbers in Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. The Mohawk River never contained more fish than now, the commissioners say, although it flows through a thickly populated part of the State, and is dragged with nets. Nearly every natural trout stream in the State has been replenished, and in many counties fishing has been prohibited for a certain number of years. In Central New York sportsmen's clubs are taking the protection of fish and game in hand, and for the first time in the history of the State the laws are being enforced. The State is the natural feeding ground for such a large variety of fishes, birds and animals, that under reasonable protection they will multiply rapidly.

THE TOBACCO HABIT.

[From the Shaker Manifesto.]

A man in our neighborhood having of late become convinced on the tobacco question, was led to make a calculation how much his tobacco habit had cost him in forty years, computing at compound interest. He was so astounded at the result that he engaged another, more skillful than himself in the use of figures, to correct or supervise his work. The outlay was found to amount to no less than thirteen thousand three hundred

dollars. He is a poor man, and no wonder. Thirteen thousand three hundred dollars in the course of forty years, spit and smoked away. Think of this, gentle reader, when you smoke tobacco. It is often pleaded on behalf of the tobacco user: But may not the poor man, after the toil of the day is done, be allowed the comfort of a quiet smoke in his own chimney-corner or by his own fire-side? We ask, would not the stimulus to be derived from the evening paper which the money puffed away in smoke would buy, or from some good book, or from the thought that he was doing something better for his children than he would otherwise be able to do, or that he was laying up something for a wet day, prove quite as comforting, and far more civilizing and ennobling, than that drawn from a stinking pipe in the chimney-corner?

ONE THING AND ANOTHER.

Liberalism is "the under dog" in Germany, Austria and England.

25,000 Waltham machine-made watches are now annually sold in Great Britain.

The Swiss and Austrian railways are going to tunnel Mount Arlberg, Rhetian Alps.

"Twixt kings and subjects there's this mighty odds,
Subjects are taught by men; kings by Gods."

The ruins of the famous Tuilleries palace will be removed and the site transformed into a garden.

Lord Salisbury denied lately in a speech that England had incurred any responsibility for reform in Asia Minor.

We don't think it necessary to shake out our claims to the French throne, just because the Prince Imperial is dead.

The Prince Imperial is going to have a monument in Westminster Abbey—Frenchman, Catholic and Bonaparte that he was.

Sleepy Tom, a blind pacer, has seen his way to do a mile in 2.12½ minutes, or one second less than any other horse before him.

There are eight men and boys now living who bear the name Bonaparte, namely, three nephews and five grand nephews of the first Napoleon.

Russia is about to tell the Powers that she has fulfilled her engagements under the Berlin treaty, and call on them to urge on fulfillment of the other parts of the treaty.

The late advance of civilization in Africa has cost the British Government about \$21,825,000—civilization that goes about in coarse shirts and with its trousers tucked into its boots.

There were more deaths last year from scarlet fever than from the yellow fever, and yet we endure that contagious disease without making any organized effort to stop its ravages.

The vacancy at the Court of St. James, occasioned by the resignation of the American Minister, is now open to men who are able to spend \$10,000 a year besides the salary of \$17,500.

A little girl scared in a thunder-storm is assured by her nurse that God will take care of her and not let her be hurt: thereupon, she snuggles up to nurse and says, "He is a good old God, ain't he?"

Lord Chelmsford can now resign in glory, and go home to "Merrie England," happy, happy, happy, happy, and leave the task of pacifying the prancing Zulus to Sir Diamond Garnet Carbuncle Wolseley.

The total value of our exports for the year ending June 30th, was \$710,423,743; imports for the same time were \$445,792,141, thus leaving a balance of trade in our favor amounting to \$264,631,602.

There were, on the 31st of December, 1878, 81,841 miles of railway in the United States. 2,694 miles of new road were built that year, and since the crash in 1873, 11,563 miles of road have been added to our railway system.

Colonel Buford, a Kentucky desperado and gentleman such as they have down there, has been found guilty of murder for shooting a judge who had decided a case against him. The jury specified that he should be imprisoned for life.

Sitting Bull and his hungry followers have overstepped the line and are now on our territory in quest of the humpy, high-shouldered buffalo. Canada and the United States will soon have to come to an understanding about that sedentary Injun.

Mr. Rainey, colored, and once a Congressman from South Carolina, says the planters of that State have revived the old-time practice of whipping the more helpless of the negroes—especially the children. The magistrates being all Democrats and individual sovereigns, there is no redress for the poor colored folk.

The M. de Lesseps' scheme for an inter-oceanic canal is not likely to be carried through without, at least, a great deal of adverse talk. That the best route has been chosen is not at all agreed on by Americans. In 1876 an able com-

mission, appointed by the President by authority of Congress, reported "That the route known as the Nicaragua route possesses, both for the construction and maintenance of a canal, greater advantages and offers fewer difficulties from engineering, commercial, and economic points of view, than any of the other routes shown to be practicable by survey sufficiently in detail to enable a judgment to be formed of their relative merits."

The "Comedie Française" has gone back to Paris, which the while has been grumbling that anybody but it should have so choice a thing. London high life has had its craze about Sara Bernhardt—great and gifted, but not goody. She has had, we're told, four babes, and is a dangerous mademoiselle and sorceress yet.

General Butler will make another attempt to capture the Governorship of Massachusetts. Now that the General has shown that he didn't pocket any of General Twigg's silver spoons in New Orleans, let him be Governor by all means. The lamented Theodore Winthrop said at the beginning of the war that Butler was "an army in himself."

The Porte has resolved to grant Tewfik Pasha all the privileges and prerogatives secured to Ismail Pasha by the firman of 1873, but will require the Khedive to submit all treaties he may conclude to the Porte. The Foreign Ambassadors insist on the substitution of the word "communicate" for "submit," else the Egyptian tribute will be reduced.

* * * * "You shall see a man
Who never drew a line or struck an ark
Direct an architect and spoil his work,
Because, forsooth, he likes a tasteful house!
He likes a muffin, but he does not go
Into his kitchen to instruct his cook;
Nay that were an insult! He admires fine clothes,
But trusts his tailor! Only in those arts
Which issue from creative potencies
Does his conceit engage him."

—Holland's *Katrina*.

Rev. Dr. Butler, Lutheran, of Washington, has been to Salt Lake City, and comes back with the idea that Mormonism hasn't been chipped into very much yet. After some difficulty he found the grave of Brigham Young, but there was nothing about it to indicate the loving care of seventeen widows. Let those widows organize, we say, and attend to that grave properly!

You will see the urgency there was in deposing Ismail Pasha when you read that "on Wednesday, June 25th, at three o'clock in the morning the Consul-General of England and France called at the palace and demanded the immediate abduction of the Khedive." Diplomacy is more of an up-in-the-morning business than you would think. Most equal to hop- and berry-picking.

Our Southern friends are comforting themselves with the absurd allegation set forth by Gen. Dick Taylor, that Federal cavalry men had to be strapped to their horses. Allowing that to be true, what solace is there in belittling an enemy that has thrashed you beautifully? Hey? When a man trounces me I should want to feel that he is the biggest kind of a giant and that it took all the bravery he had to do it.

Secretary Sherman has been up in Maine to help the Republicans in the gubernatorial canvass now going on there. He talked finance, and his best hit was when he showed that he is now doing what the Greenbackers have always clamored for most—redeeming bonds in greenbacks, paying the interest on the national debt in greenbacks, and receiving customs due in greenbacks—and yet they are not satisfied.

Bismarck has had his own way in Germany by putting himself at the head of a combination of Ultramontanes and Conservatives; and now he is producing consternation among the Liberals by proposing that the duration of the Imperial Parliament shall be extended to four or six years, and intervals of two shall elapse between its sessions, so that taxes will have to be voted for two years, at least, thus greatly diminishing parliamentary control over the revenues.

Here is what a bright-flashing man says about reading: "Some books," says Doctor Holmes, "must be read tasting every word.....But once familiar with a subject so as to know what you wish to learn about it, and you can read a page as a flash of lightning reads it. Learn a lesson from Houdin and his son's practice of looking in at a shop-window and remembering all he saw. Learn to read a page in the shortest possible time, and stand a thorough examination on its contents."

The so-called "Letellier-Case" has been disposed of at last by the dismissal of Letellier from the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec. The points established by this affair are, first, that the home government doesn't want to meddle much with the administration of Canada; second, that the Governor-General must follow the counsel of his Ministry, and, third, that a Governor of one of the Provinces cannot dismiss his Ministry if it has a clear working majority in the Provincial Parliament.

The yellow fever in Memphis is slowly abating. Three or four other towns of the South-West have had a death or two each from the same disease, while some of the Atlantic cities have had one or two cases each—generally of refugees from Memphis, or persons who had contracted the disease in the

West Indies. Out of the 45,000 persons living in Memphis all have fled except 16,000, and of these only 4,283 are white. These refugees spread the alarm, but only in a few cases have they spread the disease.

Noah Brooks, writing of "Lincoln's Imagination" in *Scribner* for August, says this is one of the things our martyr-President was fond of quoting:

"A weaver sat at his loom
Flinging his shuttle fast,
And a thread that should wear till the hour of doom
Was added at every cast."

The "Correspondence of Mac Vey Napier," editor of the *Edinburgh Review* from 1829 to 1847, is very interesting in the unvarnished opinions the great literary men of that period give, each of himself and of one another. Macaulay, well hated by mad Lord Brougham, seemed to know the defects of his own writing, while Carlyle's strongest conviction is that "at all events that one can and should ever speak quietly: loud, hysterical violence, foaming and hissing, least of all bessems him that is convinced, and not only supposes but knows."

The agricultural distress in England is likely to come into politics in some such shape as this: The Liberals will make a desperate effort at the next election to dislodge the Tories from the counties, of which they have held almost undisputed possession for centuries, by offering the tenant-farmers better tenures and more freedom, and making it easier for landlords to lower their rents and to sell what they cannot afford to keep. The only thing the Tories could oppose to this would be protection for agricultural produce, which, however they dare not talk of, as it would mean dear food and rouse the working classes to fury.

Dr. Stephen Wickes, in his "History of Medicine in New Jersey," says: "Kalm, a Swedish traveler 1747-49, noticed that Europeans in North America, whether born in Sweden, England, Germany, or Holland, or in America of European parents, always lost their teeth sooner than common. This was especially true of women. The Indians, as he had observed, always had fine teeth. It did not therefore arise from climate. He ascribed it to the use of tea and to the custom of eating and drinking everything hot. The same effect was produced upon Indian women after they had become addicted to the use of tea."

Captain Eads, of jetty fame, "is a tall, slender, well-preserved man apparently forty-five years old." Of his scheme for the transit of ships across the American Isthmus he lately said to a reporter: "I propose to take the ship with her cargo out of the water and whisk her across the isthmus, launching her upon the other side. I have demonstrated the feasibility of my plan, and I have the assurance of a number of capitalists that they are ready to furnish me with the necessary money to construct a ship-railway across the Isthmus of Darien whenever I am prepared to build it. Shipbuilders, men who are in the habit of taking vessels out upon dry-docks, are the most enthusiastic men I have met in favor of a ship-railway. They say that it is a thing that can be done, and that a ship can be safely supported on a cradle for transit without the least danger whatever. I am making all arrangements as rapidly as possible, and confidently hope to be able to transport the largest merchant-vessels fully loaded, from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean within the next four years."

A Cairo correspondent of the *Nation* writes: "The old Khedive, Ismail Pasha, accompanied by his two sons, Hussein and Hassan, left here for Naples on June 30. At the departure the scene of separation was most impressive. Under a personal government almost every individual of any importance has some special and perhaps confidential relation with the sovereign; and when the ministers and functionaries and employes came in turn to bid farewell to him who had been their sole master for sixteen years, there was scarcely a countenance in the vast crowd that was not moved to tears. Ismail Pasha alone remained apparently unmoved, and received the homage of those about him with the same grace and dignity which characterized his receptions when at the height of his splendor. From the immobility of his expression one could hardly realize that his Highness was about to leave his country forever. He had for every one an affectionate word, and told those who begged to accompany him that by rendering as good service to Tewfik Pasha as they had rendered him they would best please him."

General Longstreet, who certainly was a very able corps commander, has been passing judgment on some of the great rebels: "I am inclined to think that General Joe Johnston was the ablest and most accomplished man that the Confederate armies produced. He never had the opportunity accorded to many others, but he showed wonderful power as a tactician and a commander. I do not think we had his equal for handling an army and conducting a campaign. General Lee was a great leader—wise, deep and sagacious. His moral influence was something wonderful. But he lost his poise on certain occasions. No one who is acquainted with the facts can believe that he would have fought the battle of Gettysburg had he not been under great excitement, or that he would have ordered the sacrifice of Pickett and his Virginians on the day after the battle. He said to me afterward, 'Why didn't you stop all that thing

that day?' At the Wilderness, when our lines had been driven in and I was just getting to the field, General Lee put himself at the head of one of my brigades, and leading it into action my men pressed him back, and I said to him that if 'he would leave my commands in my own hands I would re-form his lines. His great soul rose masterful within him when a crisis or disaster threatened. This tended to disturb his admirable equipoise. I loved General Lee as a brother while he lived, and I revere his memory. He was a great man, a born leader, a wise general; but I think Johnston was the most accomplished and capable commander that we had."

The anonymous author of some interesting articles which have appeared in the *Atlantic*, one of which was "Dangerous Tendencies in American Life," has another in the same magazine for August. He says of "Preaching in America:—"The preaching of the time in this country is as good as the people are willing to hear. Neither in the church nor out of it is there any considerable demand for better preaching. Where there is most intelligence or culture the chief desire in regard to preaching is that it shall be entertaining, and thus suited to attract many hearers who will help to pay the expenses of the church. Under the 'voluntary system,' as it is called, which prevails here, it would be very difficult to give the people any kind of preaching which they do not want. The persons who need to be taught, guided, and instructed thus fix the standard and determine almost wholly the character of the teaching which they are to receive. This is an incidental effect of the dominion of the masses, of our universal-suffrage arrangement of society. In very few of the churches or congregations in this country can there be any continuous or habitual religious teaching which the people do not approve. The standard, or ideal, as to preaching is usually higher among ministers than among their hearers, and many clergymen maintain a constant struggle against the injurious tendencies of the popular taste, and try to create in the minds of their hearers an appetite for the higher and more spiritual qualities in religious teaching. But the preaching of the country, like nearly everything else in our national life, is likely to become more and more completely representative of the culture, taste, morality and entire character of the people who compose the churches. If this is the tendency, the character of the preaching will not thereby be elevated or improved."

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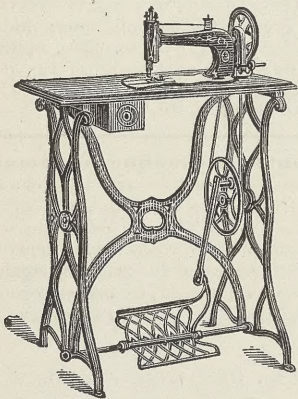
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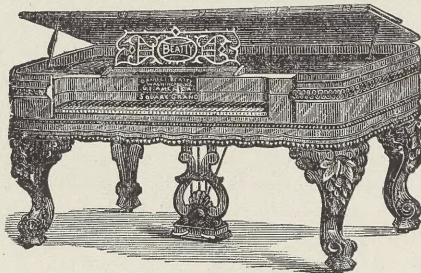
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